

# PUP PRESS

Brought to you by the Thurgood Marshall Elementary PTA

NOVEMBER 13, 2014

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**Principal  
Katie May**

## Emotional Learning

Have you ever stopped to think about all the skills that your children are learning at school in addition to reading, writing and arithmetic? Everywhere I looked this week, I observed emotional learning at work in school. Here are some things happening around the school ...

**Class meetings** – Each classroom teacher holds meetings one or more times a week. This is a time when students learn to give compliments or appreciations to each other, to use active listening skills, and how to resolve problems in a positive way with the support of their class. This week, I

observed Mrs. Von Beck's 5th-grade students discuss concerns about soccer teams at recess. Each team tends to be composed of students from just one class, and the 5th-graders would like more mixing between classes and grades (as would adults at school!). Their teacher was supporting them in finding solutions.

**Group work** – Down the hall in Mrs. Egelhoff's 5th grade, groups worked on science experiments studying the flow of water around landforms. Students had some parameters for the project but could also make some choices. As students discussed how to proceed, they used conflict resolution strategies to work together. I overheard comments such as "Who thinks we should do it this way? – Raise your hand," and "Do you mind if I bulldoze the dirt? ... No, go ahead!" Giving students opportunities to work in teams can be "messy," but it allows them to learn important life skills that will serve them well as they enter the work force.

**Roots of Empathy** – We are piloting this program this year in two classrooms, Mrs. Howard-Powell's 2nd grade and Ms. Kingsbury's 3/4 classroom; their students will be visited each month by a baby and the baby's parent. In learning about the baby as it grows and develops, they will also learn empathy for others, following a curriculum that is used internationally.

**Joint PE Class** – Once a week, Mrs. Kierstead's students have PE with Ms. Humphrey's PEACE Academy students. In addition to helping the PEACE students participate in fitness activities, the students also begin each class with a social component, focusing on introductions, eye contact and communication skills. Watching these two groups in action, it is difficult to see who is benefitting the most from this time!

**Preschool** – Thurgood Marshall's brand-new preschool class is in full swing. So much of early learning is really about emotional growth and development. Meredith Fourre and her team of Instructional Assistants and Student Interns closely follow the progress of each student and craft goals with parent input to help students learn social and emotional (and academic!) skills specific to their individual needs.

We are proud of the amazing work happening at our school. Finding ways to challenge students academically is just the beginning. Helping students become problem-solvers and leaders who can work with others is an important key to preparing them for the next steps in their education and in life.

On another note, we are so fortunate to welcome BiHoa Caldwell to our school as a substitute Assistant Principal. BiHoa is a retired principal who worked in Seattle Schools for many years and is well known and respected in our district. BiHoa will fill this role until we are able to hire for this position. She will be the contact person for grades K, 2 and 3. A number of parents have expressed interest in serving on our AP interview team. We will be pushing the interviews out a bit longer until we have a larger pool of applicants.

Finally, you may have heard that we will be sending home a new report card this year. The Department of Curriculum & Instruction has made changes to the Elementary Progress Reports to reflect our College and Career Readiness Standards (Common Core). Please let us know if you have questions. Here is a link to a video created by the district that helps to illustrate the new progress report: [www.vimeo.com/110191805](http://www.vimeo.com/110191805)

## EVENT CALENDAR

**Thurs., Nov. 13**

Washington Middle School Information Night  
6:30-8 pm in Stevens Elem. School Cafeteria  
(also **Thurs., Dec. 5**, 6:30-8 pm, at Washington Middle School)

**Fri., Nov. 14**

**Thankful** Fall Party/Dance/Potluck  
6:30-8 pm in Gym



**Fri., Nov. 14**

Deadline for Reflections Arts Competition

**Tues., Nov. 18**

PTA Meeting  
6:30-8 pm in Library



**Wed., Nov. 19**

Picture Day Retakes

**Mon.-Fri., Nov. 24 – 28**

**No school all week:** Parent/teacher conferences and Thanksgiving holiday



## LOOKING AHEAD

**Mon.-Fri., Dec. 1-Dec. 5**

Thurgood Marshall Book Fair!  
9 am-4:30 pm each day in the Library



**Thurs., Dec. 11**

Principal Coffee with special guest  
Interim Superintendent Dr. Larry Nyland  
9:15-10 am in Library



**Thurs., Dec. 11 & Fri., Dec. 12**

Washington Middle School Tours  
7:50-9:15 am

## TUTU'S PANTRY

**Nov. 10:** 3rd-Grade Donations

**Nov. 17:** 4th-Grade Donations

**Dec. 1:** 5th-Grade Donations

**Dec. 8:** PEACE/Kindergarten Donations

**Dec. 15:** 1st-Grade Donations

**Dec. 22:** 2nd-Grade Donations

Questions? Contact Tutu's Pantry Coordinators Kim Enochs at [kimenochs@comcast.net](mailto:kimenochs@comcast.net) or 206-604-1202 or Maggie Trapp at [maggietrapp@yahoo.com](mailto:maggietrapp@yahoo.com) or 206-399-8320.

## PTA Meeting Next Week

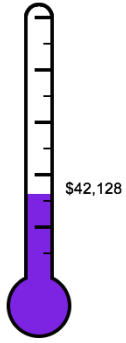
Our next PTA meeting, held **Tues., Nov. 18**, 6:30-8 pm in the Library, will include several special guests: Mynique Adams from the Seattle Public Library, librarian Mrs. Hudson, counselor, Ms. Kaloper, and Principal May.

The YMCA will provide free childcare for school-age children. There is no need to call ahead to reserve.

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## Annual Fund at 33% of Goal

Goal: \$130,000



**Fall Challenge Match Success!** With generous donations in October from 23 Thurgood Marshall families, we raised over \$12,000 for our PTA programs, and qualified for an additional \$10,000 in matching funds from several TM families. What do the contributions do for your student? See Ms. Kaloper's column (at right) to learn more. Thanks for making October a **great month for giving!**

**Friends & Family Opportunity:** Is there a grandparent, aunt or uncle, godparent or family friend who would like to support your child's education? Our annual Friends and Family mailing gives these special people an opportunity to donate to the TM Annual Giving Fund. To participate, return the attached form to school by next **Friday, Nov. 21.**

**Chinook Books Raise \$ for Our School:** Chinook Books are packed with great deals from favorite stores and attractions in our neighborhood and across the city. Our PTA will receive 50% of our sales of books (\$20) and mobile apps (\$15). Buy yours at the Fall Dance or email [giving@tmlink.org](mailto:giving@tmlink.org).

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## Tomorrow: Thankful Party/Dance/Potluck

Get your best moves ready for the Fall Dance **6:30-8 pm tomorrow** (Friday), in the Cafeteria and Gym. Potluck item reminders:



- Last names A-H = Fruit or a dessert
- Last names I-P = Cheese, protein or veggie, and crackers
- Last names Q-Z = Chips, pretzels, or something similar



If you're able, please bring items for **Tutu's Pantry**.

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## Connecting at Parent Leadership Workshop

Last Saturday's Parent Leadership Workshop put on by Community and Parents for Public Schools (CPPS) and the TM PTA was a huge success! Twenty-three parents attended, representing all grade levels, and many cultural groups, including African-American, Indian, Latino, Somali, Tibetan and Vietnamese. Parents were able to learn with others through both whole-group and small-group time. Many commented on how they felt comfortable sharing their ideas, thoughts and experiences. Parents who might not have had met before were able to discuss their child's education and the Thurgood Marshall community, and make new connections.

The last segment of the day focused on small groups looking closer at three challenges or barriers to parent involvement: **time, communication, and parents feeling welcome and motivated.** The groups came up with "action plans" to help make a difference in these areas. There will be a follow-up meeting to make progress on putting these ideas to work. For more information or to be involved, please contact [pta@tmlink.org](mailto:pta@tmlink.org).

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## Updates to Amazon Shopping to Benefit TM

The **SchoolRewards** Amazon link on the [www.tmlink.org](http://www.tmlink.org) website has been updated to use a special **AmazonSmile** link. This lets you shop with Amazon to benefit Thurgood Marshall **and** use the Smile link to either benefit Thurgood Marshall PTA **or** benefit a charity of your choice (you'll be asked to choose a charity when you first click the link.)

If you use Google Chrome, and are comfortable installing Chrome Extensions, you can install a custom extension, developed by TM parent Brian Terry (thanks, Brian!), to benefit Thurgood Marshall *whenever* you shop at Amazon without requiring a special link. If you don't use the extension, you must use the link on our website when you shop to get full benefit for TM. Go here to install the Chrome extension: [www.bit.ly/TMshopAm](http://www.bit.ly/TMshopAm)

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## PTA-Funded Mediator Program Calms Recess



Meghan Kaloper  
Counselor's Corner

Our PTA-funded Conflict Mediators and Recess Mentors program is now in full swing on the playground. Just under 60 4th- and 5th-graders went through a rigorous weeklong training with me before school two weeks ago. Students learned how to help **solve conflicts**, see different perspectives, reflect feelings, paraphrase, and model positive play and interactions. We appreciate how the Mediators and Mentors work hard to help our younger students resolve issues during recess!

Last week also marked the start of our school **Buddy Bench!** A Buddy Bench is a place to go on the playground if you don't know what to play or who to play with. By sitting on the bench, you let others know that you **would like an invitation to play.** If invited, you must say "Yes." I am visiting classrooms to teach students how to use the Bench as well as how to invite someone you don't know how to play. I have asked the Mediators and Mentors to be helpers with this bench, and I have also asked **ALL** our students to make sure we are taking care of anyone who is hoping for an invitation to play. It is my dream that this bench will help spread empathy and a sense of community, and already I have seen some amazing bravery and generosity!

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## Volunteer: Many One-Time Positions!

Here are some available volunteer positions:

- **Fall Dance Volunteers:** Volunteers still needed for tomorrow's dance. Sign up here: [www.bit.ly/ThankfulDance](http://www.bit.ly/ThankfulDance)
- **Enrichment Assistant:** Work closely with our Enrichment Coordinator to help facilitate registration and parent communications for the winter quarter. *5-10 hours; can be done from home.*
- **Academic Volunteers:** Our youngest students would love to have you read and write with them: Small reading groups are 10-10:45 am, and kindergarten writing and publishing is 2:30-3 pm. Volunteers must commit to once a week for either slot.
- **Scholastic Book Fair:** Ten to twelve volunteers are needed for two-hour shifts between 9:30 and 4:30 daily **Dec. 1-5.** Contact Karen at [rastima22@yahoo.com](mailto:rastima22@yahoo.com).
- **Pancake Breakfast Chair:** Plan and execute this all-school event on **Saturday, Jan. 24, 2015.** Work with volunteers who can assist with procurement, cooking, serving, and cleanup. A written job description and task list is available.



For more information, or more opportunities, go to [www.tmlink.org/info/volunteering](http://www.tmlink.org/info/volunteering) or contact Volunteer Coordinator Jen Ellis at [jenniferellis.206@gmail.com](mailto:jenniferellis.206@gmail.com) or (206) 276-4982.

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## Help a TM Family at Thanksgiving

A few more "Thanksgiving Meal-in-a-Bags" are still needed for Thurgood Marshall families. If you can help, please provide bags with these ingredients for a festive holiday meal:

\$20 gift card to QFC or Safeway, 2 cans green beans, 1 bag cubed bread stuffing, 1 box instant mashed potatoes, 1 can cream of mushroom soup, 1 can cranberry sauce, 1 pound yams or sweet potatoes, 1 ready-made pie crust, 1 can pumpkin purée, 1 can evaporated milk

If you'd like to give a bag or have questions about receiving one, email Katie Egolf ([kathryn.egolf@gmail.com](mailto:kathryn.egolf@gmail.com)). Katie will collect donated bags in the front hallway by the red Tutu's bins **Wed.-Thurs., Nov. 19-20**, from 9:10-9:35 am; if you can't make it at those times, please bring your bags to the front office. Thank you for your generosity!

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**Have an article for Pup Press?** Send it to Dana Armstrong at [pup-press@mail.com](mailto:pup-press@mail.com).

If your e-mail submission is not acknowledged within 24 hours, please call or text to confirm receipt at 206-419-5523.



## Join the Annual Giving Fund Family and Friends Mailing List!

Is there a special person in your child's life who would like to support his or her education with a gift to Thurgood Marshall's Annual Giving Fund? Our **"Family and Friends" mailing list** gives you the opportunity to identify grandparents, aunts, uncles, godparents, and other relatives and friends who may be interested in helping our school.

In December, the PTA will send a letter to the Family and Friends mailing list explaining the Annual Giving Fund and the wonderful programs it supports, and asking for a contribution in honor of your child. If you would like to participate in this voluntary mailing list, please complete this form and return to school. Families with multiple TM students may return only one form.

TM student's name \_\_\_\_\_ Room # \_\_\_\_\_

TM student's name \_\_\_\_\_ Room # \_\_\_\_\_

TM student's name \_\_\_\_\_ Room # \_\_\_\_\_

**Please list family and friends who may be interested in supporting our school.**

*This information will be kept confidential and used only for the Annual Giving Fund mailing.*

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

*If you have more names, please list on the back of this form.*

**Please return this form to school by FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21.**

Questions? Please contact Jenny Ott, Annual Giving Fund Co-Chair: [giving@tmlink.org](mailto:giving@tmlink.org)

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**